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ABSTRACT

The directory provides basic information about programs that purchase, finance, or lend devices for deaf and hard-of-hearing people. Only devices that make use of senses other than hearing (e.g., telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD), closed caption television decoders, and flashing signal systems) are covered, and most devices cost less than $300. Provided for each program are program name and/or sponsor, provisions of the program, funding mechanism, and one or more sources of further information. The first section is an introduction giving the purpose of the booklet and an overview of the programs. The second section lists national and regional programs including Medicare and Medicaid, Veterans Administration Programs, and the Lions Club Equipment Purchase Assistance program. State and local programs are listed by state in the third section. The last section is an appendix listing state vocational rehabilitation offices and Title XIX (of the Social Security Administration Act) state agencies. (DB)

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GRI MONOGRAPH SERIES

A Publication of the Gallaudet Research Institute ■ Gallaudet University ■ Washington, D.C. ■ MONOGRAPH SERIES B, NO. 3

EC 230 036

Financing the Purchase of Devices for Deaf and Severely Hard of Hearing People: A Directory of Sources

Technology Assessment Program
Gallaudet Research Institute
Fall, 1989

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
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About this Report

This report is one of a series from the research and demonstration project "Technology for Sensory Devices for Deaf and Severely Hard of Hearing People" (TFSD), conducted from October, 1986 through January, 1989 by the Gallaudet Research Institute's Technology Assessment Program. The project was a cooperative agreement between the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), the U.S. Department of Education, and Gallaudet University. TFSD was concerned only with devices and technologies that would allow deaf and severely hard of hearing people to use senses other than hearing for communication. It did not address instructional or clinical technologies or applications of technology, but focused on devices used in daily living by deaf people. Current devices in this category include the telecommunication device for deaf people (TDD), closed caption decoder, and signalling devices.

The project consisted of five components, as specified by NIDRR in the original competition for this project:

- a needs assessment on devices in this category;
- identification of emerging technologies that have potential to reduce or eliminate some of the communication barriers confronting deaf and severely hard of hearing people;
- investigation of the feasibility of influencing manufacturers to modify products to make them accessible to deaf and severely hard of hearing people;
- recommendation of a continuing activity that could be undertaken by NIDRR to contribute to technology in this area; and
- investigation of the feasibility of alternative financing mechanisms for the acquisition of equipment in this category.

Other reports of the project are available from the Gallaudet Research Institute. For more information, write to: Technology Assessment Program, Gallaudet Research Institute, 800 Florida Ave. NE, Washington, DC 20002.

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FINANCING THE PURCHASE OF DEVICES FOR DEAF AND SEVERELY HARD OF HEARING PEOPLE: A DIRECTORY OF SOURCES

Compiled by the Technology Assessment Program and the National Center for Law and the Deaf, Gallaudet University
and
the Bureau of Economic Research, Rutgers University

Fall, 1989

GRI Monograph Series B, No. 3
Gallaudet Research Institute
Gallaudet University

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Scientific Communications Program
Gallaudet Research Institute
Gallaudet University
800 Florida Ave. NE
Washington, DC 20002

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INTRODUCTION

This directory provides basic information about programs that purchase, finance, or lend devices for deaf and hard of hearing people. Because of the nature of the project that led to this directory, only devices that make use of senses other than hearing are covered. Devices in this category include TDDs, closed caption television decoders, and flashing signal systems. Sources of funding for hearing aids and listening devices are excluded from this report. The report does not cover dual-party relay services.[1]

The information in this directory was collected via mail and telephone surveys over a two-year period. In the summer of 1989, staff verified by phone information that had been collected up to that point in time. New programs—those established in 1989—are more likely to have been missed than programs that have been in existence for a longer period. We would appreciate learning of new programs that are not listed here.

Purpose

The purpose of this booklet is to assist consumers, advocates, and service providers in finding funding and financing for those hearing impaired people who cannot afford devices. The directory may also help consumers to identify programs that provide devices regardless of the financial means of the deaf or hard of hearing person. For example, some state programs provide TDDs to all deaf and hard of hearing people as a way of providing more equitable access to the telephone system.

Many consumers can afford to purchase devices this directory covers, most of which sell for less than $300 and few of which sell for more than $1,000. However, no single device can serve all of the communication needs of a hearing impaired person, and the total cost of the various devices for home and workplace is many times greater than the cost of a single device. Deaf and hard of hearing people who do not have the means to pay for these various devices may be losing opportunities for better employment and a more independent way of life.

Overview of Programs

A patchwork of mechanisms is used for funding and financing technological aids. Financing programs emanate from a variety of federal, state, and local governmental programs, as well as private sources.

Federal programs operate under many different mandates and have different rules and regulations. The diversity often makes it difficult for consumers, advocates, and social service providers to identify and acquire the benefits for which hearing impaired people are eligible. In many of the federal programs, the guidelines for funding of technology are decided at the state level, and within those broad guidelines, the decision often is made by an individual case worker. For this reason it is not possible to describe in detail the criteria for all federal programs. However, the directory includes an Appendix with names and addresses of state offices for administration of some federal programs that finance technology.

In addition to the federal programs which directly support the purchase of aids for deaf and severely hearing impaired people, there are other federal mechanisms that can be applied. For example, tax deductions for special aids reduce the cost to consumers who have taxable income and who itemize deductions.

State-level programs for financing aids for deaf and hard of hearing people, there are other federal mechanisms that can be applied. For example, tax involve subsidizing free distribution of TDDs through the addition of a few cents to the monthly phone bills of residents and businesses. Others tap the state's general fund for this purpose.

Privately supported finance mechanisms include such provisions as interest-free loans through the

[1] A status report on state-mandated *Dual-Party Relay Services* is available from the National Center for Law and the Deaf, 800 Florida Ave. NE, Washington, DC 20002.

establishment of revolving funds, long-term lease arrangements, grants, and loan guarantees, as well as outright purchase and distribution of devices to qualified individuals.

Under some circumstances, private insurance sources may cover the cost of assistive devices. There are many different kinds of insurance which might provide coverage, including health, disability, and liability insurance. Workers' compensation is another possible resource. Since the policies vary greatly, it is not possible to state what might be covered. Even within a policy there is often room for negotiation. Individual policies provide guidelines, but claims agents often have considerable flexibility in deciding what is covered.

A person seeking coverage for assistive devices through private insurance sources is advised to do three things: know the policy, know the agent, and present the item being requested in the best possible light as defined by the obligations of the policy. This would include getting support for the request from physicians, case workers, or other experts.

Insurance is just one possible resource; there are many others in this directory. An attempt has been made to present them in an orderly fashion; national and regional programs are listed first, then state and local programs are listed alphabetically by state. In addition, the Appendix contains Vocational Rehabilitation agency addresses and Title XIX state agency addresses. These addresses are likely to be a useful starting point for contacting the appropriate state-level agencies for assistance.

Future Editions?

If funding permits, this directory will be updated and further editions disseminated. If you find the directory useful and would like to see it revised and updated, please write to the address below. Also, if you are aware of other sources of funding and financing of visual and tactile devices for deaf and hard of hearing people, please send information on these programs to:

Technology Assessment Program
Gallaudet Research Institute
800 Florida Ave NE
Washington, DC 20002

Judith E. Harkins, Ph.D., *Director*
Carl J. Jensema, Ph.D., *Senior Research Scientist*

Acknowledgements

Most of the data in this directory were compiled by Sheila Conlon-Mentkowski, Dr. Jeffrey Rubin, and Theodore Colpo. Ms. Conlon-Mentkowski was previously an attorney for the National Center for Law and the Deaf at Gallaudet University and is now director of the NorCal Center for Law and the Deaf in Sacramento, California. Dr. Rubin is an associate professor at Rutgers University's Department of Economics; Mr. Colpo was a graduate assistant in the Department of Economics. Assistance was also provided by Kenneth G. Reeb, Jr., formerly with the Rehabilitation Engineering Center of the Electronic Industries Foundation, and Genevieve Morelli, formerly deputy assistant counsel of the National Association of Regulatory Commissioners.

National and Regional Programs

Medicare

Health Care Financing Administration
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Provisions of Program:

Medicare is the non-needs-based federal health insurance program for the aged and disabled established under Title XVIII of the Social Security Administration Act. It is designed to help people who are over 65 years of age and those younger than 65 but disabled. Eligibility for Medicare is not based on personal assets, but is based upon one's history of contributions to FICA. (Medicaid, the other major government health care program, is tied to income.)

There are two parts to Medicare:

Part A (hospital insurance) covers:

- inpatient hospital services
- inpatient care in a skilled nursing facility
- home health care
- hospice services

Part B (medical insurance) helps to pay for:

- doctors' services
- outpatient hospital services
- outpatient physical therapy and special pathology services
- home health care
- "Durable Medical Equipment"
- other services not covered by Part A

Funding Mechanism:

There are limits to Medicare coverage for both Part A and Part B. Medicare is not complete medical coverage. The patient must pay a portion of the medical costs in the form of deductibles and co-insurance.

Medicare is run by the government, but private insurance companies under contract to the government handle claims for Medicare. Companies that process Part A claims are called fiscal intermediaries. Companies that process Part B claims are called carriers. The overall administration of Medicare is handled by the Health Care Financing Administration. The Social Security Administration (SSA) assists in the processing of applications to determine eligibility and enrollment for the program (not for individual claims).

For More Information:

Contact your local Social Security Office.

Medicaid

U.S. Social Security Administration

Provisions of Program:

This program was created in 1965 by Title XIX of the Social Security Administration Act. Medicaid is a vendor payment program which makes direct payment to providers of services such as physicians, hospitals, and equipment vendors on behalf of certain eligible beneficiaries. The program is administered by individual states with the federal government sharing in the costs. Medicaid plans vary greatly from state to state. Each state provides a core of benefits for the categorically needy. Beyond the core of benefits, each state decides what additional support it wants to offer, with the federal government providing matching funds. At present, few, if any, states provide non-auditory devices for deaf and hard of hearing people.

States operating Medicaid programs must administer to categorically needy individuals who receive benefits from Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and those receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

States may also choose to provide Medicaid benefits to the medically needy. This group is composed of aged, blind, or disabled individuals or members of families who have too much income to be eligible for cash assistance, but whose medical

(continued)

Medicaid (continued)

costs are so high as to create a financial burden. Only U.S. citizens and legal aliens are eligible for Medicaid.

Funding Mechanism:

Each state decides who is eligible for Medicaid, which medical services are covered by Medicaid, and how the state's Medicaid program will be run.

States may decide what optional services to include under their individual State Medicaid plans. A state may choose to provide sensory aid equipment for state recipients under its own definition of prosthetic devices. (However, in a recent survey of state Medicaid programs, none of the respondents reported covering TDDs[1].)

For More Information:

People seeking Medicaid services should consult the Title XIX State Agencies listing in the Appendix. Officials at the addresses given in this directory can help people establish lines of communication with the proper state Medicaid personnel.

[1] See Markowicz, A. and Reeb, K. G. (1989). Medicaid Payment for Rehabilitation Equipment: Overview. *Assistive Technology*, 1 (1), 11-17.

Telephone Company Reduced Rate Programs

Provisions of Program:

Many telephone companies provide discounted service for hearing impaired people. Discounts are usually for long distance service. They range from 20% to 70% with different rate structures for day and evening calls. Eligibility is usually limited to physician-certified hearing impaired individuals who reside in the area served by the telephone company.

Other Information:

The justification for providing discounted rates to hearing impaired subscribers is found in many of the Public Utility Commission mandates. They assert that, since a printed message via TDD takes considerably longer than a verbal communication, an effort should be made to equate the costs per amount of information transmitted.

There are hundreds of telephone companies in the United States. The quality of customer service varies from company to company. Some companies are not TDD-accessible, others have representatives who are poorly informed concerning the needs of hearing impaired individuals. Customers may need to be persistent in trying to contact their local telephone company and getting assistance.

For More Information:

Tele-Consumer Hotline
1910 K St. NW, Suite 610
Washington, DC 20006
(800) 332-1124 V/TDD
(202) 223-4371 V/TDD

Veterans Administration Programs

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

Provisions of Program:

Veterans who have acquired a hearing loss during their military service, or whose injury while in the service subsequently led to a hearing impairment, may be eligible for certain assistive devices from the VA. Deafened veterans must first be evaluated by an audiologist either associated with the VA or on contract to the VA. If the audiologist determines that the veteran's hearing loss was service-connected and severe enough to require use of assistive devices, the veteran is then referred to the VA Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service.

Funding Mechanism:

The VA is one of the largest purchasers of assistive devices for disabled people. Not all veterans are equally eligible for all VA services and benefits. The VA Prosthetics and Sensory Aids Service is responsible for acquiring the needed device and makes decisions for this on a case-by-case basis. If the device is not on a national contract, a device costing less than $300 can be bought on the open market locally by the Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service. For those devices costing between $300 and $1,000 the request is sent to Supply Service which buys the item locally on the open market. For devices costing between $1,000 and $10,000 Supply Service must get competitive bids on a local basis. The Prosthetics and Sensory Aids Service Central Office must give its approval before a request for bids can be issued.

For More Information:

Interested people are urged to send for a copy of *Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents*, a publication which describes the range of available VA benefits and the eligibility requirements for them. The publication is updated annually and is available from the U.S. Government Printing Office or through the VA.

Further information may be obtained from the 172 VA Medical Centers scattered around the country. A telephone book will give the number of the local VA center.

Vocational Rehabilitation

State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Agencies

Provisions of Program:

VR programs are based upon federal law and are required to provide certain specific services, but states have some flexibility in determining eligibility requirements and the scope of services. In general, state VR programs will usually provide technical devices to VR clients who need them for employment purposes. A person must be a client of VR before qualifying for these assistive devices, and the person's VR counselor must recommend the purchase of the devices.

Funding Mechanism:

There is joint federal and state funding of VR programs.

For More Information:

A list of state offices of VR services to contact for further information is given in the Appendix. Telephone numbers of local VR offices can often be found in telephone directories.

Lions Club Equipment Purchase Assistance

Various local chapters of Lions Clubs International

Provisions of Program:

The most frequently granted requests for equipment involve, but are not limited to, telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDDs) and hearing-ear dogs. Equipment is totally or partially cost subsidized. Applicants need not be associated with a Lions club. Applicants must prove physical and financial need.

Local Lions chapters do not seek out viable candidates for whom to provide support. They receive numerous requests for equipment. They provide as much equipment as the available funds allow. The funds may or may not be available depending on the current financial status of the petitioned chapter. A chapter can be overwhelmed by the number of requests, and, although eventually they are able to make the provision, there can be a wait of several months.

The number of assistive equipment purchase subsidies varies from local chapter to local chapter. Some chapters have purchased over 100 TDDs for deaf individuals; some have purchased one piece of equipment, while other chapters have never assisted in an equipment purchase. Headquarters does not tabulate the total assistance, and local chapters know only of their own involvement.

Funding Mechanism:

Designated funds raised by the local club(s) are earmarked for a special purpose, sent to the International headquarters, and then returned to the local club(s) for distribution. These designated funds are generated by private and corporate contributions and through many local fund-raisers run by the chapters. An individual can solicit a chapter for assistance in purchasing a piece of equipment. If the chapter regards the request as valid and has the necessary funds, and if the applicant meets the requirements, the purchase may be partially or, what is more common, totally subsidized.

Other Information:

There are about 30 Deaf Lions Clubs. A local chapter need not be a deaf chapter to sponsor the assistance of a purchase. The headquarters of the Lions does not raise funds. It serves in an administrative capacity. The headquarters does collect undesignated funds and disburses them to a specific area, e.g., $1 million to the American Diabetes Association. There is no nationwide or regional plan to disburse designated or undesignated funds to aid purchases of equipment for deaf individuals.

For More Information:

Contact the nearest Lions chapter or
Lions Clubs International
300 22nd St.
Oak Brook, IL 60570
(312) 571-5466 V
(312) 571-6533 TDD

Other Service Organizations

Provisions of Programs:

Information on the Lions Clubs International is also intended to be indicative of similar services offered by other service clubs and civic organizations. Groups such as Quota International, Optimists, Sertoma, Knights of Columbus, and Kiwanis International, though differing in background, size, and provisions, very often have similar mechanisms for finance of assistance.

(continued)

(Other Service Organizations, continued)

For More Information:

Kiwanis International
3636 Woodview Trace
Indianapolis, IN 46268

Knights of Columbus
1 Columbus Plaza
New Haven, CT 06507

Optimist International
4494 Lindell Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63108

Quota International
1420 21st St. NW
Washington, DC 20036

Sertoma International
1912 East Meyer Blvd.
Kansas City, MO 64132

Section 501, 503, and 504 Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as Amended

Provisions of Program:

This is a federal law, not a funding program, but it may provide a mechanism through which certain employees may obtain devices for use in their workplace.

Section 501 requires all federal executive agencies to submit an affirmative action plan for hiring, placing, and promoting qualified handicapped people.

Section 503 requires companies which have contracts with the federal government to take affirmative action to hire, place, and promote qualified handicapped people.

Section 504 prohibits programs receiving federal financial support from discriminating on the basis of handicap.

Funding Mechanism:

Employers covered by this law must make a reasonable effort to accommodate handicapped people. This would include obtaining devices to help handicapped employees perform their jobs.

Other Information:

The United States Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has published a book called *Handbook of Reasonable Accommodation* which gives detailed guidelines.

For More Information:

United States Office of Personnel Management
1900 E St. NW
Washington, DC 20415

National Center for Law and the Deaf
800 Florida Ave. NE
Washington, DC 20002

Tax Laws—IRS and State Tax Codes

Tax laws are not "programs," but are related to financing devices. This is not a complete listing of tax laws; there probably are other laws not covered here.

The U.S. Internal Revenue Service allows the cost of many assistive devices to be deducted from an individual's income tax return as a medical expense. However, it should be noted that a certain percentage of a taxpayer's income must be for medical expenses before any income tax medical deductions are allowed.

Connecticut, Maine, Missouri, New York, and Maryland recently enacted legislation removing sales tax on TDDs sold within their jurisdictions.

Arkansas, Michigan, Minnesota, and North Carolina allow doubling of the standard deduction for qualifying hearing impaired persons on their state taxes.

Hawaii allows deductions of an additional $7,000 per disabled person.

Maine and California allow a special deduction to offset the cost of a TDD.

Missouri allows a TDD deduction if the device is necessary to one's livelihood.

Alabama allows deductions for hearing aid and hearing ear dog expenses.

STATE AND LOCAL PROGRAMS

ARIZONA

Arizona TDD Program

Arizona Council for the Hearing Impaired

Provisions of Program:

The program provides TDDs and telephone signalling devices, as well as training on how to use the equipment. All deaf, hearing impaired, deaf-blind, and speech impaired citizens of the state are eligible. No proof of financial need is necessary. The equipment is the property of the state. The money is also used to fund a statewide relay service. Approximately 1,600 TDDs were distributed as of October, 1988.

Funding Mechanism:

A state-mandated tax surcharge of $.04 per month is levied on all telephone customers in the state. The revenue is put aside into an interest-bearing trust fund purposely for purchasing and maintaining the equipment and the establishment of a statewide relay service.

For More Information:

Claudia Foy, Coordinator
TDD/Relay Project
Arizona Council for the Hearing Impaired
1300 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
(602) 542-3323 V/TDD

CALIFORNIA

California TDD Program

Provisions of Program:

This state-mandated program provides, free of charge, TDDs, telebraille machines, telephone signalling devices, and amplifiers as well as training on how to use the equipment, which remains the property of California. All deaf, hearing impaired, deaf-blind, and speech impaired citizens of the state are eligible. No proof of financial need is necessary. Approximately 16,500 TDDs were distributed through December 1986. Agencies serving deaf people may request approval to obtain TDDs for their offices.

Funding Mechanism:

A tax surcharge of $.03 per month is levied on all telephone customers. Senate Bill 60 authorizes a new cap of $.10 per month. These funds go into the Deaf Equipment Acquisition Fund (DEAF). The DEAF Trust Fund is used to purchase telecommunications equipment and provide statewide relay service.

For More Information:

Check with the local telephone company listed in the front of the local telephone directory. Information for the consumer about the process of obtaining a TDD should be listed there. Other sources of information are given below:

Richard Babb, Executive Director
Inland Services Center
Suite C
4960 Arlington Ave.
Riverside, CA 92504
(714) 359-1020 V/TDD

Marge Klugman, Information Referral Specialist
Geater Los Angeles Association of the Deaf (GLAD)
616 S. Westmoreland Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90005
(213) 383-2220 V/TDD

Richard Fish, Senior Utilities Engineer
Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 557-2401 V
(415) 577-0798 TDD

Sherry Flodine, Business Manager
Pacific Bell Deaf and Disabled Services
140 New Montgomery St.
San Francisco, CA 94131
(415) 542-9054 V/TDD

VACC Decoder Installment Plans

Valley Advocacy and Communication Center for Deaf and Hearing Impaired (VACC)

Provisions of Program:

Closed caption decoders are sold to hearing impaired people on a two-month installment plan.

Funding Mechanism:

VACC provides a limited installment plan as a program of the center.

For More Information:

Valley Advocacy and Communication Center
for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired
261 W. Shaw Ave.
Suite 101
Clovis, CA 93612
(209) 299-8643 V/TDD

COLORADO

Assistive Device Programs

Colorado Center on Deafness (COD)

Provisions of Program:

COD lends equipment, TDDs, flashing signal products, and closed caption decoders for $1 a day. This program is used primarily by people who have deaf friends or relatives visiting or by people whose own devices are out for repair. There are three decoders and six TDDs available for loan.

COD periodically receives donated equipment that it in turn donates to a person in need.

COD purchases equipment including TDDs, decoders, and flashing signallers for hearing impaired individuals. A local allocation committee reviews requests based on need. This is provided through a contract from the Colorado Rehabilitative Services Agency.

Funding Mechanism:

Rehabilitation Act Title VIII Part A funds through Rehabilitative Services Agency.

For More Information:

Sherry Lyons, Financial Manager
Terri Clemons, Relay Manager
Center on Deafness
1900 Grant St.
Denver, CO 80203
(303) 839-8022 V/TDD

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut TDD Distribution Program

Connecticut Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired (CDHI)

Provisions of Program:

This program provides TDDs and flashing-light signallers which remain the property of the state. Telebraille machines are available within budget constraints. The limited funds available require priorities such as limited income, one TDD per household, and some other requirements. Approximately 1,000 TDDs were distributed as of June 30, 1989. Deaf and speech impaired residents of the state are eligible to receive the equipment. There is also a state supported relay service funded separately by the CDHI and operated by Converse Communications Service.

Funding Mechanism:

Originally, each telephone company with 100,000 local exchange customers in Connecticut was required to establish a trust fund of $100,000 annually that was used to run the TDD distribution program. This requirement expired January 1987, and a combination of state funding and telephone company money now supports the program. It is anticipated that the program will be supported totally by state funds.

For More Information:

R. Katherine Nash, Educational Projects Coordinator
TDD Distribution Program
Connecticut Commission on the Deaf
and Hearing Impaired
141 N. Main St.
West Hartford, CT 06107
(203) 566-7414 V/TDD

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

See Maryland.

FLORIDA

Florida TDD Distribution Program

Florida Council for the Hearing Impaired (FCHI)

Provisions of Program:

This state-mandated program provides TDDs (recipients may order carrying cases at discount

prices); flashing light signallers (one master signalling unit per household; recipients may order remote receivers); volume control telephones (amplifying either incoming or outgoing sound); and volume control tone ringers. Training is available upon request. Florida residents nine years old or older who have telephone service in their home and who are certified as deaf or speech impaired are eligible. Financial need is not an eligibility requirement. All equipment belongs to FCHI. Distribution began March 3, 1987. The law also requires that emergency service providers be TDD accessible. These service providers must purchase TDD equipment that has been approved by the FCHI from either the FCHI or another supplier who can provide the equipment at a lower cost.

Funding Mechanism:

Legislative appropriation funding to date is $1,550,000 from the state Public Service Commission's (PSC) Regulatory Trust Fund.

For More Information:

Peggy Schmidt, Administrator
Florida Council for the Hearing Impaired
Florida Education Center
Suite 622C
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0401
(904) 488-5087 V/TDD
(800) 451-4327 (in Florida)

HAWAII

Hawaii TDD Distribution Program

Hawaiian Telephone Company

Provisions of Program:

TDDs and visual signallers are rented to consumers at $6 per month. Eligible people are hearing impaired residents of Hawaii with proof of hearing loss. In 1988, legislation was enacted to require provision for telecommunications relay service throughout the islands.

Funding Mechanism:

A tax surcharge of $.12 per month is levied on all telephone consumers.

For More Information:

Joseph Benevides, Manager
Hawaiian Telephone Company
1177 Bishop St.
Honolulu, HI 96814
(808) 546-7799 V
(808) 546-2565 TDD

ILLINOIS

Illinois TDD Distribution Program

Provisions of Program:

The program provides TDDs, telebraille machines, and signalling devices, and will implement a dual-party relay service by June, 1990. Deaf and severely hearing impaired residents who are certified are eligible.

Funding Mechanism:

A surcharge on all telephone subscribers' bills is used to fund a TDD distribution program and expand third-party relay services throughout the state. state. TDD distribution began in November, 1988. Relay service program guidelines are still pending. The original $.03 surcharge cap to fund the program was lifted via legislation in 1988. The telephone company is allowed to raise the surcharge if needed to meet costs.

For More Information:

Hugh Duren, Executive Vice President
Illinois Telecommunications Access Corp. (ITAC)
P.O. Box 64509
Chicago, IL 60664
(312) 419-4200 V
(312) 419-4211 TDD

No-Interest Loans for Equipment

Deal Social Service Agency for the Tri-State Area, Inc.

See Indiana.

INDIANA

No-Interest Loans for Equipment (Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois)

Deaf Social Service Agency for the Tri-State Area, Inc.
D/B/A Resource Agency for the Deaf
and Hearing Impaired

Provisions of Program:

This program provides loans for the purchase of TDDs, decoders, and other devices. There are financial requirements. The agency serves a portion of three states: western Kentucky, southwestern Indiana, and southeastern Illinois.
(continued)

(Indiana, continued)

Funding Mechanism:

No-interest revolving loan fund.

Other Information:

A bequest generated the base for the revolving loan fund.

For More Information:

Ms. Ali Steinhart-Blaylock, Executive Director
Deaf Social Service Agency for the Tri-State Area, Inc.
D/B/A Resource Agency for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired
901 W. Virginia St.
Evansville, IN 47710
(812) 425-2726 V
(812) 425-2841 TDD

IOWA

TDD Loaner Program

Deaf Services Commission of Iowa (DSCI)
in cooperation with
Iowa chapter of Telephone Pioneers of America (TPA)

Provisions of Program:

DSCI screens all applicants to determine eligibility. Applicants must be deaf and over the age of 18, must not currently have a TDD, have limited income (tied to state and federal low income guidelines), and use the TDD in Iowa. The supply of TDDs is small but constant. Almost 100 TDDs have been placed through this program.

Funding Mechanism:

TPA purchases the TDDs, and private groups and individuals are encouraged to donate.

For More Information:

Diana Leonard, Administrator
Deaf Services Commission of Iowa
Department of Human Rights
Lucas State Office Building
Des Moines, IA 50319
(515) 281-3164 V/TDD

Equipment Services Program

Easter Seal Society of Iowa, Inc.

Provisions of Program:

This is an equipment rental/loan program. When a client has Medicare or Medicaid and reimbursement can be obtained, the Society seeks such reimbursement. If the client has no way of paying for the use of the equipment, there is a minimal charge.

When equipment is no longer needed, it is returned to the Society where it is refurbished and loaned to another individual. If the equipment was paid for through the individual's insurance coverage, the return of such equipment is encouraged and considered a donation.

Eligibility is restricted to individuals with physical disabilities who reside in the state of Iowa and who are not living in a licensed care facility.

Other Information:

The Easter Seal Society has been operating the program in Iowa since the early 1960s. The equipment loan pool consists of over 13,000 various pieces, primarily bathroom, bedroom, and mobility/ambulatory devices. If the appropriate equipment is not in stock, the Society does have some funds to acquire the aid for inclusion in its loan pool. Usage is free if the applicant is unable to pay rental fees.

Since the program's inception, some 5,000 disabled individuals have received equipment. In fiscal year 1988, roughly 2,000 persons were served through the equipment pool. It is not known how many deaf persons received assistance through this program.

For More Information:

Wayne Galpin
Director of Equipment Services Program
Easter Seal Society of Iowa, Inc.
P.O. Box 4002
Des Moines, IA 50333
(515) 289-1933 V only

KANSAS

Decoder Loan Program

Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired (KCDHI)

Provisions of Program:

Two first-generation closed caption television decoders are available free of charge for anyone

interested in trying them out. Users are charged for repairs if repairs are needed. Borrowers must pick up the decoder. The decoders can be borrowed for two months at a time. Limited to deaf and hearing impaired people and family members with deaf relatives.

Funding Mechanism:

Sertoma Civic Club donated two decoders to KCDHI.

For More Information:

David Rosenthal, Director
Kansas Commission for the Deaf
and Hearing Impaired
300 SW Oakley St.
Biddle Building—1st Floor
Topeka, KS 66606
(913) 296-2874 V/TDD

Loan Program

Independence, Inc.

Provisions of Program:

This is a loan program run by Independence, Inc., an Independent Living Center in Lawrence, Kansas. Anyone with a disability, residing within Douglas County, is eligible for this adaptive equipment loan program. Individuals may receive only one loan of up to $250 within any 12-month period. Criteria considered in the application review process include availability of other resources with which to acquire necessary equipment.

Funding Mechanism:

Money for the fund is obtained annually from the Rehabilitation Services Administration, the Kansas Division of Rehabilitation Services, and a Douglas County mill levy. Roughly one third of the total funds come from the county mill levy. About $1,000 per year is added to the adaptive equipment loan program by federal, state, and county sources. The program's annual budget is also supplemented with repayments on loans made previously. Though funding is from various public sources, the program is operated by a private organization.

Other Information:

This revolving fund was established in 1980 because the needs of disabled people were not being met, and many disabled people lacked the necessary credit history to buy on credit.

Between 1980 and 1985, Independence, Inc. made loans totalling $2,242 for adaptive equipment. It is not possible to determine how much of this funding was for deaf individuals.

For More Information:

Executive Director
Independence, Inc.
1910 Haskell Ave.
Lawrence, KS 66046
(913) 841-0333 V
(913) 841-1046 TDD

KENTUCKY

No-Interest Loans for Equipment

Deaf Social Service Agency for the Tri-State Area, Inc.

See Indiana.

MAINE

Maine TDD Lending/Cost Sharing Program

Division of Deafness
Maine Bureau of Rehabilitation

Provisions of Program:

The TDD Lending/Cost Sharing Program provides up to $300 for a TDD. The individual has to be certified as deaf, hearing impaired, and/or speech impaired and unable to use the telephone without a TDD.

Under this program, TDDs, ring signallers, and receivers are provided and remain the property of the state. Deaf, hearing impaired, and speech impaired residents must be certified. Living arrangements and income information is required.

A limited number of TV decoders are distributed.

Funding Mechanism:

The TDD Lending/Cost Sharing Program is funded by the State Bureau of Rehabilitation to pay up to 50 percent of the cost of each TDD, ring signaller, and receiver. The remaining 50 percent is to be raised by a municipality or private organization. Under the State Lending Program, the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (within the Department of Human Services) provides funds for

(continued)

(Maine, continued)

the purchase, leasing, upgrading, installation, maintenance, and repair of TDDs, ring signallers, and receivers.

For More Information:

Division of Deafness
Maine Bureau of Rehabilitation
32 Winthrop St.
Augusta, ME 04330
(207) 289-3484 V
(207) 289-3348 TDD

MARYLAND

Advocates for Communication Technology for Deaf-Blind People

Provisions of Program:

This program makes equipment available to deaf-blind residents of Maryland and the District of Columbia. There is no restriction on the type of equipment. Referrals are taken from community agencies, vocational rehabilitation, and other agencies.

Funding Mechanism:

Money is raised from private sources, through the efforts of a group of volunteer fundraisers. Funding fluctuates with the donations received.

For More Information:

Edward Kilcullen
222 East Timonium Rd.
Timonium, MD 21093
(301) 252-7905 V only

MICHIGAN

TDD Program

Michigan Bell Telephone Company

Provisions of Program:

The Michigan Bell Telephone Company has a special plan that assists certified deaf individuals financially. TDDs are available to a deaf person for $7 a month over 24 months. These payments cover the cost of the TDD, adaptor, two-year warranty, and tax. No finance charge is assessed. Certified deaf individuals are eligible regardless of income. The $7 monthly charge is added to the telephone bill. This service is available only to Michigan Bell Telephone Company subscribers.

For More Information:

Michigan Bell Special Needs Center
25900 Greenfield, Room 568
Oak Park, MI 48237
(313) 968-9205 V/TDD

MINNESOTA

Minnesota TDD Distribution Program

Provisions of Program:

This program provides TDDs and a centralized statewide relay service. The Minnesota Department of Public Service is to provide other support. There is an income requirement related to the median income in the state. The program will start TDD distribution in 1989.

Funding Mechanism:

A monthly surcharge not to exceed $.10 per month on telephone subscribers' lines.

For More Information:

Herb Pickell, Administrator
TACIP Program
790 American Center Building
150 East Kellogg Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55101
(612) 296-9863 TDD only

Bill Lamson, State Coordinator
Equipment Distribution Program
Deaf Services Division
Department of Human Services
444 Lafayette Rd.
St. Paul, MN 55155-3814
(612) 297-3639 V only

U.S. West Communications No-Interest Loans

U.S. West Communications Special Needs Center

Provisions of Program:

U.S. West Communications provides no-interest loans to hearing impaired individuals and their families to purchase any special needs equipment to be used in conjunction with their telephones. Eligible customers may borrow up to $1,600 to purchase assistive telephone devices. This program applies to all disabilities and is only available to Minnesota customers.

Funding Mechanism:

Funded by U.S. West Communications.

For More Information:

U.S. West Communications
Special Needs Center
200 S. 5th St., Room 158
Minneapolis, MN 55402

Telecom Center for Disabled Customers
(800) 223-3131 V/TDD (Minnesota only)

MONTANA

Equipment Loan and Purchase

Montana Independent Living Project

Provisions of Program:

This program loans TDDs and may purchase equipment as needed by the severely hearing impaired individual. Equipment covered includes closed caption decoders, telephone devices, and equipment that will assist the person to be more independent. Those eligible must be severely disabled and must complete a form required by the federal government. They must also have low incomes. Under the Part A grant the program has served 173 individuals, of whom 4 percent listed hearing impairment as a primary disability.

Funding Mechanism:

Funds from grant, Part A of the Comprehensive Independent Living Services of Title VIII.

For More Information:

Montana Independent Living Project
38 S. Last Chance Gulch
Helena, MT 59601
(406) 442-5755 V/TDD
(800) 233-0805 V/TDD (Montana only)

Equipment Rental

Summit Independent Living Center for Western Montana

Provisions of Program:

This is a program for short-term, low-fee rental of adaptive equipment. TDDs are rented for a fee of $15 per month. Applicants must have a disability, must be interested in living independently, must be at least 16 years of age, and must be residents of western Montana.

Funding Mechanism:

Funding for the non-profit organization is 5 percent private, 8 percent state, and 87 percent federal.

Other Information:

In such a sparsely populated state, the service does not face excessive demand. During 1986, the center served 30 hearing impaired people.

For More Information:

Renee Hensen, Equipment Specialist
Summit Independent Living Center
1280 South 3rd St. West
Missoula, MT 59801
(406) 728-1630 V/TDD
(800) 843-9655 (Montana only)

NEBRASKA

TDD Loan Program

Nebraska Commission for the Hearing Impaired (NCHI)

Provisions of Program:

NCHI coordinates with the Telephone Pioneers to loan TDDs. The Lincoln Pioneers Association loans TDDs and closed caption decoders. The Northwest Bell Pioneers Association works through the Omaha telephone company office. The loans are based on financial need.

For More Information:

Peg DeGarmo, Field Representative
Nebraska Commission for the Hearing Impaired
4600 Valley Rd.
Lincoln, NE 68510
(402) 471-3593 V/TDD

NEVADA

Nevada TDD Distribution Program

Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR)

Provisions of Program:

The program provides TDDs, light signallers, and training on how to use the devices. Residents of Nevada eight years of age and older (or who demonstrate ability to use the telephone with a

(continued)

(Nevada, continued)

TDD), who are unable to use the phone without a TDD due to speech or hearing impairment, are eligible. No proof of financial need is required. There is a limitation of one TDD per household. Approximately 250 TDDs were distributed as of February, 1987. Agencies may apply to obtain the devices. The equipment remains the property of the state.

Funding Mechanism:

A state-mandated surcharge was levied on all telephone lines to establish a fund to be used to purchase equipment. The Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation administers the program.

For More Information:

Elisa Galloway, Program Coordinator
Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation
505 E. King St., Room 500
Carson City, NV 89710
(702) 885-4470 V/TDD

Margaret Ceccherini, Program Coordinator
Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation
628 Belrose St.
Las Vegas, NV 89158
(702) 486-5230 V
(702) 486-5228 TDD

Equipment Loan Program

Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living (NNCIL)

Provisions of Program:

This program provides TDDs, light signallers, vibrators, alarm clocks, phone amplifiers, and closed caption decoders. A person who wishes to borrow a device must first fill out an application for services and become a client of NNCIL. Any client can fill out an equipment registration form. The client agrees to lease devices from the program for $1 or $5 a month. Major electrical equipment such as closed caption decoders are loaned at $5 a month. Equipment such as light signallers is rented at $1 a month. If a low-income resident cannot afford these fees, the fee may be waived.

Funding Mechanism:

Donations from Sertoma, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, cities of Reno and Sparks, other agencies, and private donors.

For More Information:

Laura Daviton
Deaf Services Director
Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living (NNCIL)
624 East 4th St.
Reno, NV 89512
(702) 328-8000 V
(702) 328-8006 TDD

NEW HAMPSHIRE

New Hampshire TDD Distribution Program

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)

Funding Mechanism:

An initial equipment fund of $4,000 was established from state funds. Annual appropriation is $5,000.

Provisions of Program:

The program lends TDDs which remain the property of the state. There are income limitations and other priorities. The equipment is intended for people who are deaf, hearing or speech impaired, or deaf/blind, and who are certified as such. TDDs are loaned while in the state; an individual cannot be an active DVR client. As of the end of 1988, 25 TDDs were loaned. The program also loans signalling devices.

For More Information:

Susan Auerbach
State Coordinator of Deaf Services
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
78 Regional Dr.
Building 2
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 271-3471 V/TDD

NEW YORK

Equipment Loan Fund for the Disabled

New York Department of Social Services
Albany, NY

Provisions of Program:

The program offers low interest loans (currently at eight percent) for the purchase of essential

equipment. Essential equipment means equipment which assists disabled persons to overcome barriers associated with their disability in daily living or vocational functioning following rehabilitation. This includes, but is not limited to, telecommunication devices for the deaf. Eligible people are New York state residents with a physician-certified disability. There is a limited supply of monies allocated for this fiscal year. Initially, the program is supported entirely by funds allocated by the state, but the law reads that all monies, including interest, paid by borrowers in repayment shall be returned to the fund. Loan disbursements may be for dollar amounts ranging from a minimum of $500 to a maximum of $2,000.

Funding Mechanism:

The introduction of the program in 1988 was the result of passage of a bill that established Chapter 609 of the Laws of 1985. The law reads, "the fund shall consist of all monies appropriated for the purpose of such fund, all monies transferred to such fund pursuant to law, all monies required by the provisions of this section or any other law to be paid into or credited to this fund, and all monies, including interest, paid by borrowers to the fund in repayment of loans made from the fund." The law also states, "monies of the fund following appropriations made by the legislature and allocation by the director of the budget to the fund, shall be available solely for the purpose of enabling eligible applicants to borrow money at less than the prevailing rates of interest for comparable loans."

For More Information:

Richard Daugherty, Loan Administrator
Equipment Loan Fund for the Disabled
New York State Department of Social Services
P.O. Box 1935
Albany, NY 12201
(518) 473-0540 V only

OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma Telecommunications for the Hearing Impaired Program

State Department of Human Services

Provisions of Program:

This program provides TDDs, amplified handsets, Versabrailles, large display TDDs, ring signalers, and other special devices as needed. Income qualifications are as follows: equipment and maintenance to be provided at no charge to individuals earning up to 200 percent of the food stamp guidelines. There is to be a sliding scale of fees charged for eligible individuals who are above this income test. Ownership remains with the state for three years. Eligible applicants are deaf, deaf-blind, or speech impaired year-round residents of the state. Applicants must be unable to use the telephone without a special device or so severely speech impaired that their speech is unintelligible over the telephone.

Funding Mechanism:

There is a state-mandated surcharge of $.05 per month on each telephone line. The funds are also to be used to implement a state relay service.

For More Information:

Charles C. Estes
Rehabilitation Services for the Deaf RS 24
2409 N. Kelly
Oklahoma City, OK 73125
(405) 424-4311 V
(405) 424-2794 TDD

OREGON

Dogs for the Deaf

Dogs for the Deaf, Inc.

Provisions of Program:

Hearing ear dogs are provided free of charge. Any physician-certified severely or profoundly deaf person who can assume total responsibility for the animal can apply. All guardians must agree to provide regular "in-home" training sessions to keep obedience and sound responses alert, a fenced yard or portable dog-run, regular grooming and medical care, adequate exercise, and licensing and compliance with local animal regulations. There is an approximate waiting period of six months to one year. The 1988 investment per dog was $3,500. This is up from the 1977 investment cost of $2,000 per dog. As of April 1987, the program had placed over 400 hearing ear dogs.

Funding Mechanism:

The total cost of operating Dogs for the Deaf is offset by private contributions from individuals, service clubs, businesses, foundations, memorial fund designations, and bequests. There is no support from public taxes. Contributions from individuals and service clubs represent the major source of funds.

(continued)

(Oregon, continued)

Other Information:

The project was initiated in 1977 by the late Roy G. Kabat. The dogs are chosen from Humane Society adoption shelters. Dogs have been placed in Canada as well as the United States.

For More Information:

Robin Dickson, Executive Director
Dogs for the Deaf, Inc.
10175 Wheeler Rd.
Central Point, OR 97502
(503) 826-9220 V/TDD

Oregon TDD Distribution Program

Public Utilities Commission (PUC)

Provisions of Program:

Telecommunications equipment (signal devices, TDDs, wrist vibrators, Telebrailles, large-print devices) are loaned to hearing impaired, deaf-blind, and speech impaired people. Equipment remains the property of the state.

Funding Mechanism:

Surcharge not to exceed a maximum of $.10 per month on all telephone subscribers bills (except TDD recipients' monthly bills). Funding also supports a statewide relay service.

For More Information:

Jack R. Cassell, Manager
Telecommunications for the Deaf Access Program
Oregon Public Utilities Commission
Labor and Industries Building
800 Center St., NE, Room 400
Salem, OR 97310
(503) 373-1282 V
(503) 373-1413 TDD

PENNSYLVANIA

Interest-Free Loans

Hearing Impaired United Public Supporters (HIUPS)

Provisions of Program:

Devices that HIUPS will purchase are TDDS, signallers, closed caption decoders, and other equipment the individual needs to help function and improve communication. HIUPS checks to see if the applicant is employed; if not, a co-signer is required. Families of deaf individuals may also apply.

Funding Mechanism:

HIUPS purchases the device needed by the applicant and requires the recipient to make monthly payments of $10 or $15 with no added interest.

For More Information:

Barbara Graham, President
Sister Allen Crowder, Treasurer
c/o Scranton State School for the Deaf
1800 N. Washington Ave.
Scranton, PA 18509
(717) 963-4546 V/TDD

RHODE ISLAND

Rhode Island Telecommunication Device Distribution Program

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)

Provisions of Program:

TDD or other telecommunications devices are distributed at no extra charge over the basic telephone service. Ownership of the devices remains with the state. Those eligible are any resident of the state who is deaf, hearing impaired, speech impaired, deaf-blind, or who has a neurological disease or disorder. No proof of financial need is necessary, but certification of the impairment is required. There is a limit of one TDD per household.

Funding Mechanism:

Funds for equipment distribution were obtained from a one-time, state-mandated, six-month surcharge of $.30 on all residential subscribers' monthly bills. Intent was to raise $750,000 to cover the cost of the TDD distribution program.

For More Information:

Maureen K. McEntee, Coordinator
Telecommunications Device Distribution Program
Vocational Resources, Inc.
100 Houghton St.
Providence, RI 02904
(401) 861-6677 V/TDD

SOUTH DAKOTA

South Dakota TDD Distribution Program

Department of Human Services

Provisions of Program:

As of October 1, 1989, the Department of Human Services has contracted with Communication Services for the Deaf to administer and supervise the program. TDDs and signallers are given free of charge to deaf residents of South Dakota. No proof of financial need is required. The equipment must be returned to the Department of Human Services if the resident moves out of the state.

Funding Mechanism:

Funds are generated from an access fee of $.10 per local exchange service line per month.

For More Information:

Department of Human Services
Richard Kneip Building
700 Governors Dr.
Pierre, SD 57501
(605) 773-5990 V

Communication Services for the Deaf
3520 Gateway Lane
Sioux Falls, SD 57106
(605) 339-6718 V/TDD

UTAH

Utah TDD Distribution Program

Provisions of Program:

This is a state-mandated program which provides TDDs and other related equipment, including Telebraille machines. The program is expected to begin in November, 1989 for equipment distribution. A relay service has been in existence since January, 1988. Certified deaf, hearing impaired, or speech impaired Utah residents with low incomes and receiving public assistance are eligible.

Funding Mechanism:

There will be a surcharge of $.07 per month on telephone lines to be set aside in a fund to be administered as directed by the Public Service Commission (PSC). The funds are to be used only for purchase, repair, and maintenance of the equipment as well as for relay service and administration program costs.

For More Information:

Dave Mortensen
Salt Lake Valley Mental Health
7434 South State St.
Midvale, UT 84047
(801) 566-4423 V
(801) 566-9739 TDD

Madelaine Perkins
Utah Association for the Deaf
388 N. 400 East
Bountiful, UT 84010
(801) 295-8245 V/TDD

VERMONT

United Cerebral Palsy of Vermont

Provisions of Program:

United Cerebral Palsy of Vermont administers a small loan fund called the Sue Williams Equipment Loan (SWEL) Fund. Small interest-free loans are made to help people with disabilities purchase equipment. Repayment can be in small monthly sums.

For More Information:

United Cerebral Palsy of Vermont
73 Main St., Room 402
Montpelier, VT 05602
ATTN: Lee Viets
(802) 223-5161 V
(TDD calls by prior arrangement)

WASHINGTON

Washington TDD Project

Department of Social and Health Services

Provisions of Program:

Department of Social and Health Services administers an equipment distribution and relay service program. State law authorizes distribution of devices to eligible hearing impaired people and organizations serving hearing impaired individuals.

Funding Mechanism:

TDD excise tax on each telephone access line with a maximum of $.10 per month.

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(Washington, continued)

For More Information:

Department of Social and Health Services
TDD Project
Mail Stop OB 42 A
12th and Franklin Sts.
Olympia, WA 98504
ATTN: Patty Hughes
(206) 586-8250 V
(206) 586-8249 TDD
(800) 422-7930 V (Washington only)
(800) 422-7941 TDD (Washington only)

WISCONSIN

Wisconsin Telecommunications Assistance Program (TAP)

Office for Hearing Impaired

Provisions of Program:

Vouchers are written at a face value of $600, which may be used by recipients to independently purchase devices such as TDDs, signalling devices, amplified telephones, etc. Devices become the property of the consumer. Deaf and hearing impaired people who meet the following criteria are eligible:

1. Verification of hearing impairment on document provided by a physician, audiologist, or a VR counselor.
2. Income calculated at 200 percent over the federal poverty guidelines.
3. If a client of DVR, individual must ask DVR for TDD or necessary device. If not, the client is eligible for TAP services if the income guidelines are met.
4. Deaf-blind and low vision-hearing impaired people may apply for assistance of up to $5,500 per household. TAP may use no more than 20 percent of its allocation to serve the visually impaired and hearing impaired population.
5. Limit of one $600 voucher per household for hearing impaired people.

Funding Mechanism:

Originally $100,000 of state funds was set aside to administer the TAP service; this was reduced to $80,000 on February 1, 1986 as a result of budget cuts. There were further administrative cuts in July, 1987. The state also provides some relay services with the funds.

For More Information:

Telecommunications Assistance Program
Office for Hearing Impaired
1 West Wilson St.
P.O. Box 7852
Madison, WI 53707
(608) 266-8081 V
(608) 266-8083 TDD

APPENDIX

STATE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION OFFICES

Alabama

Division of Rehabilitation
and Crippled Children Services
State Department of Education
P.O. Box 11586
Montgomery, AL 36111-0586
(205) 281-8780 V/TDD
Assistant Director: Carl Monroe (Df-Bl Services)
Specialist in Deafness: Earl Lindsey

Alaska

Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)
3600 Bragaw St.
Anchorage, AK 99508
(907) 561-4466 V
(907) 563-1992 TDD
Deaf Counselor: Marcia Barnes

DVR Central Office
P.O. Box FMS 0581
State Office Building
Juneau, AK 99811-0500
Director: Keith Anderson

Arizona

Rehabilitation Services Administration
1300 W. Washington St., Room 101
Phoenix, AZ 85007
(602) 542-3332 V/TDD
Director: James B. Griffith
Specialist in Deafness: Randy Sergeant

Arkansas

Rehabilitation Services Division
5326 W. Markham St.
Little Rock, AR 72205
(501) 371-1922 V
(501) 371-1924 TDD
Coordinator on Deafness: Kenneth Musteen

California

State Department of Rehabilitation
Services to Deaf Persons
830 K St. Mall
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 322-3076 V
(916) 445-3031 TDD
Director: P. Cecie Fontanoza

Colorado

Division of Rehabilitation
1575 Sherman St., Fourth Floor
Denver, CO 80203-1714
(303) 866-4381 V/TDD
Coordinator on Deafness: Cheryl Blehm-Poskus

Connecticut

Division of Rehabilitation Services
10 Griffin Park North
Windsor, CT 06095
(203) 298-2018 V/TDD
Coordinator on Deafness: John LeBlond

Delaware

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Elwyn Building, Fourth Floor
321 E. 11th St.
Wilmington, DE 19801
(302) 571-3258 V/TDD
Coordinator on Deafness: Ann Gasser

District of Columbia

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
Department of Human Services
605 G St. N.W., Suite 1021
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 727-0981 V/TDD
Coordinator on Deafness: Marlene Jones Kinney

Florida

Department of Labor and Employment Security
1709 A Mahan Dr.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0696
(904) 488-6210 V
(904) 488-2867 TDD
Program Staff Director: Calvin Melton
Deaf Services Supervisor: Richard Sample

Georgia

Department of Human Resources
Division of Rehabilitation Services
878 Peachtree St., Seventh Floor
Atlanta, GA 30309
(404) 894-7554 V
(404) 894-7555 TDD
Director: Thomas R. Gaines
Specialist in Deafness: Dennis Fennell

Hawaii

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
1000 Bishop St., Room 605
Honolulu, HI 96813
(808) 548-6439 V/TDD
Division Administrator: Toshio Nishioka
Staff Specialist: Fae Chun

Idaho

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Len B. Jordan Building
650 W. State St., Room 150
Boise, ID 83720
(208) 334-3390 V/TDD
Coordinator on Deafness: Larry Smith

Illinois

Department of Rehabilitation Services
100 W. Randolph St., Suite 8-100
Chicago, IL 60601
(312) 917-2939 V
(312) 917-3040 TDD
Coordinator on Deafness: Steve Larew

Indiana

Indiana Rehabilitation Services
225 N. New Jersey St.
Indianapolis, IN 46207
(317) 232-1671 V/TDD
State Director: Barry Chambers
Specialist in Deafness: Don M. Shaffer

Iowa

Vocational Rehabilitation Services
510 E. 12th St.
Des Moines, IA 50319
(515) 281-4139 V/TDD
Director: Jerry L. Starkweather
Specialist in Deafness: James H. Hanson

Kansas

Rehabilitation Services
300 SW Oakley
Biddle Building, Second Floor
Topeka, KS 66606
(913) 296-3911 V
Commissioner: Gabriel R. Faimon

Kentucky

Bureau of Rehabilitation Services
Capital Plaza Tower, Ninth Floor
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 564-3819 V
(502) 564-4440 TDD
Coordinator on Deafness: Patty Conway

Louisiana

Louisiana Department of Health
and Human Resources
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
P.O. Box 94371
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9371
(504) 342-2285 V
(504) 342-5284 TDD
Director: Alton Toms

Maine

Division of Deafness, Bureau of Rehabilitation
32 Winthrop St.
Augusta, ME 04330
(207) 289-3484 V
(800) 332-1003 TDD
Coordinator on Deafness: Norm Perrin

Maryland

Vocational Rehabilitation Division
Maryland Rehabilitation Center
2301 Argonne Dr.
Baltimore, MD 21218
(301) 544-3278 V
(301) 544-3277 TDD
Director: Richard A. Batterton
Specialist in Deafness: Bona Achinanya

Massachusetts

Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission
Fort Pont Pl., Suite 600
27-43 Wormwood St.
Boston, MA 02210-1606
(617) 727-9854 V
(617) 727-2196 TDD
Coordinator on Deafness: Lois Willett

Michigan

Michigan Rehabilitation Services
608 W. Allegan
Lansing, MI 48909
(517) 373-3979 V
(517) 373-4035 TDD
Director: Peter Griswold
Specialist in Deafness: Gail Faulkner

Minnesota

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
1111 3rd Ave., Suite 20
Minneapolis, MN 55404
(612) 341-7100 V
(612) 341-7492 TDD
Coordinator on Deafness: Paul Bridges

Mississippi

Department of Rehabilitation Services
Vocational Rehabilitation Division
932 N. State St.
Jackson, MS 39202
(601) 354-6830 V/TDD
Director: Morris Selby
Coordinator on Deafness: Gary Neely

Missouri

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Fulton State Hospital
Auxiliary Services Building
Fulton, MO 65251
(314) 642-5357 V/TDD
Coordinator on Deafness: Charles Bland

Montana

Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services
Rehabilitation Services Division
1818 10th Ave. S.
Great Falls, MT 59405
(406) 727-7740 V/TDD
Director: Margaret Bullock
Coordinator on Deafness: Richard Stuckey

Nebraska

State Education Department
Rehabilitation Services Division
P.O. Box 1807
Kearney, NE 68848-1807
(308) 234-1863 V/TDD
Director: Jason D. Andrew
Specialists in Deafness: Vickie Schaepler, Ellen Berry, Norma Patterson

Nevada

Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation
505 E. King St., Room 500
Carson City, NV 89710
(702) 885-4473 V/TDD
Administrator: Steve Shaw
Coordinator on Deafness: Elisa Galloway

New Hampshire

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
78 Regional Drive, Building JB
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 271-3471 V/TDD
Director: Bruce Archambault
Coordinator on Deafness: Susan Auerbach

New Jersey

Department of Labor
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services
Labor Building, Room 1005—CN-398
Trenton, NJ 08625
(609) 292-5987 V
(609) 292-2919 TDD
Director: Stephen G. Janick III
Coordinators of Deaf Services: Patricia Tomlinson, Patricia Cooper

New Mexico

State Department of Education
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
604 W. San Mateo
Santa Fe, NM 87503
(505) 827-3500 V/TDD
Director: Russ Sweat

New York

State Department of Education
Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
One Commerce Plaza
Albany, NY 12234
(518) 474-3941 V/TDD
Deputy Commissioner: Lawrence C. Gloeckler
Specialist in Deafness: Tobi Bickwheat

North Carolina

Department of Human Resources
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services
P.O. Box 26053
Raleigh, NC 27612
(919) 733-3364 V
Director: Claude A. Myer
Specialist in Deafness: Terry Kemp

North Dakota

Department of Human Services
Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
State Capitol
600 E. Boulevard Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58505
(701) 224-2907 V
(701) 224-2699 TDD
Associate Director: Gene Hysjulien
Specialist in Deafness: George A. Saiki

Ohio

Rehabilitation Services Commission
400 E. Campus View Blvd., SW-4
Columbus, OH 43235-4604
(614) 438-1325 V/TDD
Administrator: Robert L. Rabe
Specialist in Deafness: Skip Bergquist

Oklahoma

Department of Human Services
Rehabilitation Services Division
P.O. Box 25352, RS 24
Oklahoma City, OK 73125
(405) 424-4311 V
(405) 424-2794 TDD
Coordinator on Deafness: Charles C. Estes

Oregon

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
2045 Silverton Rd. N.E.
Salem, OR 97310
(503) 378-3830 V/TDD
Director: Joil Southwell
Specialist in Deafness: Jim Hovey

Pennsylvania

Department of Labor and Industry
Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
1313 Labor and Industry Building
Seventh and Forster Sts.
Harrisburg, PA 17120
(717) 783-8917 V/TDD
Coordinator on Deafness: Terry Arnold

Rhode Island

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
40 Fountain St.
Providence, RI 02903
(401) 421-7005 V
(401) 421-7016 TDD
Director: Sherry Campanelli
Specialist in Deafness: Regina Connor

South Carolina

Vocational Rehabilitation Department
1410 Boston Ave.
P.O. Box 15
W. Columbia, SC 29171-0015
(803) 739-5313 V/TDD
Commissioner: J.S. Dusenbury
Specialist in Deafness: Larry M. Harrelson

South Dakota

Division of Rehabilitation Services
Richard Kneip Building
700 Governors Dr.
Pierre, SD 57501-2275
(605) 773-3195 V
(605) 773-4544 TDD
Coordinator on Deafness: John Ellefson

Tennessee

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Citizens Plaza Bank Building
400 Deaderick St., Eleventh Floor
Nashville, TN 37219
(615) 741-2095 V/TDD
Coordinator on Deafness: Dreama Sherrill

Texas

Rehabilitation Commission
118 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, TX 78704
(512) 445-8314 V/TDD
Commissioner: Vernon M. Arrell
Program Specialist for the Hearing Impaired:
Kelly Caudell

Utah

Office of Rehabilitation
Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
388 N. 400 East
Bountiful, UT 84010
(801) 533-5997 V/TDD
Executive Director: Judy A. Buffmire
Administrator: Gene Stewart

Vermont

Department of Rehabilitation and Aging
Vocational Rehabilitation Division
P.O. Box 6069
Brattleboro, VT 05302
(802) 257-0579 V/TDD
Coordinator of State Services: Renee Pellerin

Virginia

Department of Rehabilitative Services
4901 Fitzhugh Ave.
P.O. Box 11045
Richmond, VA 23230-1045
(804) 367-0316 V
(804) 367-0315 TDD
Coordinator on Deafness: Bonnie Borenstein-Rounds

Washington

Department of Social and Health Services
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
OB-21C
Olympia, WA 98504
(206) 753-0329 V/TDD
Director: Jeanne Munro
Coordinator on Deafness: Ann Janni

West Virginia

State Board of Vocational Education
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
State Capitol Building
Charleston, WV 25305
(304) 766-4965 V/TDD
Chief, Services for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired:
Annette Chaussy Carey

Wisconsin

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
P.O. Box 7852
1 West Wilson St., Room 850
Madison, WI 53707
(608) 266-0224 V
(608) 266-9599 TDD
Coordinator on Deafness: John Conway

Wyoming

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
609 E. Madison
Riverton, WY 82501
(307) 856-2393 V/TDD
Coordinator on Deafness: Carl Shapard

TITLE XIX STATE AGENCIES

Title XIX of the Social Security Administration Act created the Medicaid program. Although Medicaid was created under a federal law, each state administers its own Medicaid services. People needing information on Medicaid should use this directory to find the correct local office to contact in their respective states.

Alabama

Commissioner of Medicaid
Alabama Medicaid Agency
2500 Fairlane Dr.
Montgomery, AL 36110

Alaska

Commissioner
Alaska Department of Health and Social Services
P.O. Box H
Juneau, AK 99811-0601

American Samoa

Director
Department of Health and State Medicaid Agency
LBJ Tropical Medical Center
Pago Pago, AS 96799

Arizona

Director
Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System
801 E. Jefferson St.
Phoenix, AZ 85034

Arkansas

Director
Arkansas Department of Human Services
Donaghey Building, Thirteenth Floor
Seventh and Main Sts.
Little Rock, AR 72203

California

Director
California Department of Health Services
714 P St., Room 1253
Sacramento, CA 95814

Colorado

Executive Director
Colorado Department of Social Services
1575 Sherman St., Eighth Floor
Denver, CO 80203-1714

Connecticut

Commissioner
Connecticut Department of Income Maintenance
110 Bartholomew Ave.
Hartford, CT 06106

Delaware

Secretary
Delaware Department of Health and Social Services
1901 N. DuPont Highway
New Castle, DE 19720

District of Columbia

Director
Department of Human Services
801 North Capitol St., Room 700
Washington, DC 20002

Florida

Secretary
Florida Department of Health
and Rehabilitative Services
1317 Winewood Blvd.
Building 2, Room 432
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0700

Georgia

Commissioner
Georgia Department of Medical Assistance
Twin Towers Office Building
West Tower, Room 1220-C
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr.
Atlanta, GA 30334

Guam

Director
Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services
P.O. Box 2816
Agana, GU 96910

Hawaii

Director
Hawaii Department of Human Services
P.O. Box 339
Honolulu, HI 96809

Idaho

Director
Idaho Department of Health and Welfare
State House
Boise, ID 83720

Illinois

Director
Illinois Department of Public Aid
Jesse B. Harris Building II
Third Floor
100 S. Grand Ave., East
Springfield, IL 62762

Indiana

Commissioner
Indiana Department of Public Welfare
State Office Building
100 N. Senate Ave., Room 701
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Iowa

Director
Iowa Department of Human Services
Hoover State Office Building
Fifth Floor
Des Moines, IA 50319

Kansas

Secretary
Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services
Docking State Office Building
Sixth Floor
Topeka, KS 66612

Kentucky

Commissioner
Kentucky Department of Medicaid Services
CHR Building
275 East Main St.
Frankfort, KY 40621

Louisiana

Secretary
Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals
P.O. Box 3776
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Maine

Commissioner
Maine Department of Human Services
221 State St.
State House, Station 11
Augusta, ME 04333

Maryland

Secretary
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
201 West Preston St.
Baltimore, MD 21201

Massachusetts

Commissioner
Massachusetts Department of Public Welfare
180 Tremont St.
Boston, MA 02111

Michigan

Director
Michigan Department of Social Services
P.O. Box 30037
Lansing, MI 48909

Minnesota

Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Human Services
444 Lafayette Rd., Second Floor
St. Paul, MN 55155-3815

Mississippi

Director
Division of Medicaid
Robert E. Lee Building
239 N. Lamar St., Room 801
Jackson, MS 39201-1311

Missouri

Director
Missouri Department of Social Services
P.O. Box 1527
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Montana

Director
Montana Department of Social
and Rehabilitation Services
P.O. Box 4210
111 Sanders
Helena, MT 59604

Nebraska

Director
Nebraska Department of Social Services
301 Centennial Mall South
Fifth Floor
Lincoln, NE 68509

Nevada

Director
Nevada Department of Human Resources
Kinkead Building—Capitol Complex
505 E. King St., Room 600
Carson City, NV 89710

New Hampshire

Commissioner
New Hampshire Department of Health
and Human Services
6 Hazen Dr.
Concord, NH 03301-6521

New Jersey

Commissioner
New Jersey Department of Human Services
Capitol Place One, CN-700
222 South Warren St.
Trenton, NJ 08625

New Mexico

Cabinet Secretary
New Mexico Department of Human Services
P.O. Box 2348
PERA Building, Room 301
Santa Fe, NM 87504-2348

New York

Commissioner
New York State Department of Social Services
Ten Eyck Office Building
40 N. Pearl St.
Albany, NY 12243

North Carolina

Secretary
North Carolina Department of Human Resources
325 N. Salisbury St.
Raleigh, NC 27611

North Dakota

Executive Director
North Dakota Department of Human Services
State Capitol, Judicial Wing
600 East Blvd.
Bismarck, ND 58505-0251

Northern Mariana Islands

Director
Department of Public Health
and Environmental Services
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 409 CK
Saipan, CM 96950

Ohio

Director
Ohio Department of Human Services
30 E. Broad St., 32nd Floor
Columbus, OH 43266-0423

Oklahoma

Director
Oklahoma Department of Human Services
P.O. Box 25352
Oklahoma City, OK 73125

Oregon

Director
Oregon Department of Human Resources
318 Public Service Building
Salem, OR 97310

Pennsylvania

Secretary
Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare
Health and Welfare Building, Room 333
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Puerto Rico

Secretary of Health
Edificio A
Hospital de Psiquiatria
Rio Piedras, PR 00936

Rhode Island

Director
Rhode Island Department of Human Services
Aime J. Forand Building
600 New London Ave.
Cranston, RI 02920

South Carolina

Executive Director
South Carolina State Health
and Human Services Finance Commission
P.O. Box 8206
Columbia, SC 29202-8206

South Dakota

Secretary
South Dakota Department of Social Services
Richard Kneip Building
700 Governors Dr.
Pierre, SD 57501-2291

Tennessee

Commissioner
Tennessee Department of Health and Environment
344 Cordell Hull Building
Nashville, TN 37219

Texas

Commissioner
Texas Department of Human Services
P.O. Box 149030
Austin, TX 78714-9030

Utah

Executive Director
Utah Department of Health
P.O. Box 16700
Salt Lake City, UT 84116-0700

Vermont

Secretary
Vermont Agency of Human Services
103 S. Main St.
Waterbury, VT 05676

Virgin Islands

Commissioner of Health
Virgin Islands Department of Health
48 Sugar Estate
Charlotte Amalie
St. Thomas, VI 00802

Virginia

Secretary
Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23212

Washington

Secretary
Washington Department of Social and Health Services
12th and Franklin
Mail Stop OB-44
Olympia, WA 98504

West Virginia

Commissioner of Medical Services
West Virginia Department of Human Services
1900 Washington St. East
Charleston, WV 23505

Wisconsin

Secretary
Wisconsin Department of Health
and Social Services
1 West Wilson St., Room 650
P.O. Box 7850
Madison, WI 53707

Wyoming

Administrator
Wyoming Department of Health Services
2300 Capitol Ave.
Hathaway Building, Fourth Floor
Cheyenne, WY 82002